(d) whether Government are also considering to establish an Additional Salt Commissioner's Office in Gujarat and if so, by when this office will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is no proposal at present to establish an Additional Salt Commissioner's Office in Gujarat as a Regional Office of the Salt Deptt. headed by Deputy Salt Commissioner is already functioning there and it is sufficient to cater to the needs of the Salt Industry in that region.

Royalty on crude oil produced in Gujarat and Assam

747. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of royalty on crude oil produced in Gujarat and Assam is pending for final consideration with the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is the demand of Gujarat and Assam in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(d) if not, by when Government will take a final decision on the question of royalty on crude oil ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) Government of Gujarat and Government of Assam have, *inter-alia*, demanded increases in the rate of royalty on crude oil from Rs. 192/- to Rs. 683·50 and Rs. 405/- per metric tonne respectively. The revision of the rate of royalty on crude oil is under review in consultation with the State Governments. In the meanwhile, an ad-hoc payment of Rs. 100/- per metric tonne for 1989-90 is proposed to be made which would be adjusted against the payment after the final revision of the rate of royalty.

Allotment of LPG connection on the recommendations of Members of Parliament

748. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discontinued the practice of allotting LPG connections on out of turn basis on the recommendations of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not releasing such connections during the last four months ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the last four months following numbers of LPG connections have been released on priority basis on the recommendations of Members of Parliament against their quota:

Months	No. of connections
November, 89	1,348
December, 89	952
January, 90	606
February, 90	1,141